Rehabilitation of villages on the periphery of Oscoto Deer Sanctuary

1131. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that all development works in villages on the periphery of Oscoto Deer Sanctuary (Uttaranchal) have been impeded and villagers have lost their traditional rights;

(b) whether Government are also aware that a demand has been made to restrict the area of the said sanctuary by bringing an amendment in the Deer Sanctuary Area Act or to rehabilitate villagers elsewhere; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to solve problems of these villagers?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) As reported by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttaranchal, the developmental works and the traditional rights of the villagers are restricted to the extent that prior permission of the Supreme Court of India and clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is required for any non-forestry works.

(b) and (c) A proposal to redefine the boundaries of the sanctuary has been received from the Government of Uttaranchal and it has been decided to refer the matter to the National Board for Wildlife.

Improvement in waste management

1132. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to TERI review, the amount of solid municipal and other waste generated between 1997 to 2002 rose by around the same rate as the country's GDP;

(b) whether it is a fact that over 58 per cent of total farm land in the country is affected by either water logging or salination;

(c) whether this has resulted in a loss of production anywhere between 11 and 26 per cent in the agriculture sector; and